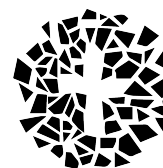


INTRODUCING JESUS

LUKE 6:27-36

Community Group Study Guide
Week of July 15, 2018



MOSAIC BOSTON
LOVE. JESUS. SIMPLE.

This week we looked at Luke 6:27-36 where Jesus is continuing His sermon to His disciples. Through His beatitudes He's already shown His disciples that their lifestyle should be very distinct from that of other people, and this week we see that He expects them to love other people in a distinct way as well. In a world that teaches us to fear and hate our enemies and to treat people the way they treat us, Jesus commands us to love our enemies and treat people the way we would want to be treated by them. It's a radical idea, but He wants the lives of His disciples to not only be marked with holiness and devotion to God, but also by mercy and grace toward others (even enemies).

When we first hear Jesus' teachings in this passage they can seem very sweet and inspiring. The more thought we give to them, however, the more they can begin to seem sour or even repulsive. Deep down we fear that if we really love our enemies, and "turn the other cheek," then our weakness will enable those who are evil to trample over the innocent. We bristle at Jesus' commandment, because it sounds like it could undermine justice, empower the wicked, and lead to oppression.

A more exhaustive study of the New Testament helps us to avoid some of the potholes that people run into in this text. Pastor Shane covered many of these in the Sermon. Jesus is not trying to undermine justice in this passage. He is however wanting us to live our lives in light of a day when total justice will be served. A day when God will right every wrong, and hold all people accountable for their sin. Our enemies will not get off the hook. The penalty for their sin must be paid, but the penalty for our sin must be paid as well. It will either be paid in hell, or by Jesus on the cross. The Good News is that, through Jesus, Christ, God has made a way to be just by punishing sin, but also merciful by saving sinners like us.

When we really understand the mercy and justice of God we should live lives of justice that are also marked with a generous mercy toward others. Because we know the day of justice is coming, we should strive to show mercy and plead with others to accept God's mercy today, before it's too late! Instead of retaliating to our enemies with hatred, we should respond to them in love. By doing so we show that we really are our Father's children, and may perhaps see God turn our enemies into friends. This is the way Jesus has loved us, and so this is the way he's commanded us to love others as well.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To gain a deeper understanding of how Jesus expects us to apply this command in our lives.

Heart

To trust that God is a just judge and will right every wrong, but also a kind and merciful savior.

Hands

To obey Jesus command to live lives of love, generosity, and non-retaliation to our enemies for the sake of the Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CG Hosts: A lot of people are moving around this summer and we're in need of many new CG hosts. Please pray for this in your groups and let your CG Coach know of anyone willing to host a CG.

Membership or Baptism:

Contact
admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ICE BREAKER

Who is your favorite super-villain?

Read Luke 6:27-36

- What are some of the big ideas in this passage that stand out as you read?
- Jesus assumes that some people will hate us and persecute us because of our faith. Why is it important that we not retaliate or seek revenge? Why does Jesus command this?
- Most people today believe that you should treat others the way they treat you. It sounds very similar, but how is actually much different than what Jesus is teaching us here?
- Jesus concludes by calling us to be merciful, because God is merciful. Mercy does not mean to simply be nice or kind, it means that you refrain from giving someone the penalty or punishment that their behavior deserve. Why might it be helpful to understand this passage in light of the Biblical idea of God's mercy?
- In Luke 6, Jesus concludes his sermon by talking about judgement day. There is a day when God will judge all sin and right all wrongs. Why does it make more sense for us to love our enemies now, if we're living our lives with that future day in mind?
- The power to live this out comes from understanding the way Jesus loved us while we were still enemies of God. Why is it important for Christian to believe that, apart from Jesus, we are all enemies of God? What do we have to lose if we don't understand this teaching?
- When you think of the cross, do you think more about God's justice or God's mercy? Why is it important to see both when we look at Jesus on the cross?

Read Romans 12:17-21 & 1 Peter 3:8-17

- What stands out to you in these passages and how might they add to our understanding of the commandment to love our enemies?
- As you listened to the sermon, and as you read these texts, have you felt compelled to apply them in an specific ways in your life? Are there areas where you're struggling or not sure how to live this out?